HEALTH
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FOWEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1955

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

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To :-

THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS

OF THE BOROUGH OF FOWEY.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1955.

The vital records are satisfactory apart from the birth rate which continues to be low.

The town was fortunate to get through an exceptionally dry year without an acute water shortage.

I am indebted to Mr. Webb for much help, and to him and to Members of the Council I wish to express my thanks for continued help and support.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. G. S. TURNER,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	...	2,979
Population (mid year)	...	...	2,320
Number of inhabited houses		...	980
Rateable Value	...	...	£19,516
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	£77

	Male	Female	Total	Rate/1000 Population Fowey	England & Wales
Live Births					
Legitimate	5	9			
Illegitimate	0	1	15	6.46	
		corrected rate		6.9	15.0
Still Births	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Deaths	13	15	28	12.07	
Rate corrected for age and sex distribution				9.5	11.7
					Rate/1000 Live and Still Births
Maternal Deaths		Nil	Nil	Nil	0.64
Infant Mortality					Rate/1000 Live Births
(deaths under 1 year of age)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	24.9

The following table gives the percentage distribution of ages at death:

Age Group		Percentage Dying Males	Females
0 - 1	...	0.0	0.0
1 - 59	...	7.5	6.6
60 - 69	...	38.5	46.7
70 - 79	...	30.8	13.3
80 - 89	...	23.1	26.7
90 and over	..	0.0	6.6

The following is a list of the causes of death :

		Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	0	0	0
2.	„ other ...	0	0	0
3.	Syphilitic disease	0	0	0
4.	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5.	Whooping cough ...	0	0	0
6.	Meningococcal infections ...	0	0	0
7.	Acut poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8.	Measles ..	0	0	3
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	0	1
11.	„ „ lung, bronchus	2	0	2
12.	„ „ breast	0	0	0
13.	„ „ uterus	0	0	0
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	1	2	3
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	0	0	0
16.	Diabetes	0	0	0
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	0	2	2
18.	Coronary disease, angina ...	2	0	2
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	0	0	0
20.	Other heart disease... ...	2	2	4
21.	Other circulatory diseases ...	0	1	1
22.	Influenza	1	1	2
23.	Pneumonia	0	1	1
24.	Bronchitis ...	1	0	1
25.	Other diseases of the respiratory system	0	0	0
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	0	0
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0	0
28.	Nephritis, and nephrosis ...	1	0	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostrate ..	0	0	0
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
31.	Congenital malformations ...	0	0	0
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	5	7
33.	Motor vehicle accidents ...	0	0	0
34.	All other accidents	0	0	0
35.	Suicide	0	1	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
	All causes :	13	15	28

SECTION A.

Area (2,979 acres) The district consists of the estuarine Town of Fowey, the Hamlets of Newtown, Polkerris and Polmear, and a large rural background. China Clay is exported from the Port in large quantities, and the Town is yearly increasing in popularity as a Seaside Resort, for Summer visitors. These two combine to make the principle industries.

Population. The Registrar General's population figure for 1955 was 2,320. The temporary Summer population is estimated to add another 3,000.

Number of Inhabited Houses. The number of inhabited houses is 980. The rateable value is £19,516, giving a penny rate of £77.

Meteorological Data. The months of July and August were exceptionally hot, dry and sunny. There was a severe gale on 2nd November, but there were many long spells of settled, fine weather. Total rainfall: 25.34″ (11.4″ below average). Driest month: August - 0.47″; wettest month: December - 4.82″; highest Temperature: July - 83° F; lowest temperature: February - 26° F.

SECTION B.

Public Health Officers

(a) Medical Officer of Health: J. G. S. TURNER, M.B.,Ch.B.,D.P.H. 1/1/55 - 31/12/55.

(b) Sanitary Inspector (part time): A. F. J. WEBB, A.R.S.I. 1/1/55 - 31/12/55.

Laboratory Facilities

All investigations are carried out at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, where material is sent for investigation.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis

In addition to the usual diphtheria prophylactics, supplies of whooping cough vaccine and of tetanus toxoid are available in various combinations and can be obtained by Medical Practitioners at the Area Office, St. Austell.

Ambulance Service.

The Ambulance Service is provided from the main centre at St. Austell and, in addition, Fowey has its own ambulance which operates in the evenings and at week-ends.

Nursing in the home

There is one District Nurse - Midwife - Health Visitor for the area.

Domestic Health Service

The establishment is the equivalent of two full-time helps. A total of 17 persons were aided, of whom three were maternity cases.

Maternity and Child Wefare

All mothers and children are visited in their homes by the Nurse. Expectant mothers attend the clinic in St. Austell.

Hospitals

The Town has a small 13 bedded hospital. Patients requiring specialised treatment go to the Royal Cornwall Infirmary at Truro, or to Redruth.

Clinics

Practically all the special clinics are held in St. Austell, either at the hospital or at Moorland Road.

SECTION C.

Water

Despite a dry Summer, supplies were maintained. The installation of a larger pump at the Emergency Plant was of great help.

The main sources of the Town's supplies are shallow springs. Lescrow adit taps deeper sources and so also does the Trezare Borehole. The whole of the Town's water supply is chlorinated through the Shipping Reservoir.

The greater part of the area is supplied through the mains. Polkerris has a private supply serving 22 properties, Polmear is partly supplied by the St. Austell U.D.C., and a few isolated farms and dwellings have their own springs or wells.

Thirty-three water samples were taken and all except nine were satisfactory. The unsatisfactory samples were caused by flooding of the springs by storm.

There has been a set-back in the Fowey River Scheme owing to the withdrawal of the Truro R.D.C., and the need to replan the distribution.

Drainage

All drainage discharges into the estuary along the foreshore below low tide limits.

Polkerris Sea Outfall Sewer - Ministry approval has been received for the renewal of the Outfall Sewer.

Various repair work has been done to Sewers including the renewal of 90ft. 6″ Sewer in Passage Street, damaged by roadwork. This Sewer was relaid in iron.

Public Scavenging

The Town has a twice-weekly collection of Refuse. The farms and outlying districts have a collection once per fortnight. The Town streets are swept daily, and the outer roads once or twice per week. All gullies are cleared monthly. A new 7½ cubic yard Karrier Bantam Refuse Lorry has been purchased and will be delivered early in 1956.

Disinfections

Six disinfections have taken place.

Rats and Mice

164 dwellings and business premises were inspected, leading to 13 cases of treatment for rats and mice. 10 inspections of farms were carried out. All Sewers were baited and found free of rats.

Nuisances

54 nuisances were dealt with by informal action, and 271 complaints investigated.

Conveniences

9 Public Conveniences serve the District. The general standard of cleanliness is high.

SECTION D. HOUSING

The Green Lane Estate of 24 houses has been completed and occupied. Owing to the economic situation, the Council have decided against further building.

The Tower Park Sites - Site works have been completed ana 8 sites sold for private building.

Tavern Barn The Air Ministry have completed the building of 8 houses.

SECTION E

Milk. Fowey is now a Designated Area and only bottled pasteurised or T.T. milk may be sold. This should provide a milk which is free from disease producing germs provided that there is a high standard of cleanliness in bottles.

Ice Cream. There are 17 Retailers. Five batches of samples were taken and all but 2 were in Grade 1.

Cafes. These were inspected at regular intervals and are generally of a high standard. Property owners are very co-operative in effecting minor improvements.

Meat. There are no slaughterhouses in the District and meat supplies are obtained from St. Austell and Liskeard slaughterhouses.

Condemned Foodstuffs

Tinned Meat : 198 lbs. 5 ozs. ; **Pork Sausages :** 105 lbs. ;
Tinned Fruit : 39 tins (28 lbs.); **Pies** 18 (2 lbs.);
Stewed Steak : 5 tins ; **Gammon :** 120 lbs. 15 ozs.

SECTION F

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other diseases.

Disease	No. of Cases	Rate/1000 population		
		Fowey Borough		England & Wales
	1955	1954	1955	1955
Whooping Cough	1	4.4	0.5	1.78
Measles ...	20	0.4	8.6	15.60
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	0.5	0.22
Food Poisoning	2	-	0.9	0.28

The two cases of food poisoning were part of a larger outbreak in St. Blazey, and were due to staphylococcal poisoning. The vehicle was infected ham.

Apart from the bienniel outbreak of measles, the incidence of infectious disease remains low.

Smallpox Vaccination. During the year there were 10 primary and 2 re-vaccinations.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The following table gives the number of children at 31st December, 1955, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1941).

Age at 31/12/55 i.e. born in year	under 1 1955	1 - 4 1954-51	5 - 9 1950-46	10 - 14 1945-41	under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections whether primary or booster					
1951-1955	0	71	145	127	343
1950 or earlier	0	0	34	4	38
Estimated mid-year population	17	105	165	130	417
Immunity Index	0	67.8	88.0	97.0	82.2

During the year the following immunisations were carried out:-

Primary	Diphtheria alone	23
	Diphtheria and Whooping Cough	17
Boosters	Diphtheria alone ...	53

These figures indicate a satisfactory state of immunity except in those under 1 year of rge. By failing to have the immunisation process started at 4 months the great advantage of preventing whooping cough during the first year of life is lost. The mortality from whooping cough is at its greatest during the first year of life.

Tuberculosis The total number of cases on the register at 31st December 1955 was as follows:-

	Male	Fmale	Total
Pulmonary ...	7	8	15
Non-pulmonary ...	1	2	3

The following table gives the age and sex distribution of new cases and of deaths for 1955.

Age Group	New Cases Respiratory M	F	Meninges M	F	Others M	F	Deaths Respiratory M	F	Meninges M	F	Others M	F
0 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-24	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-64	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

In addition there were two transfers out from the area.

The scheme for the protection of school leavers which involves skin tests, B.C.G. vaccination and X-rays was continued. It was found that 18.7% of the children had some experience of previous tubercular infection. B.C.G. was offered to all the other children and 31 were vaccinated. About 50 children were examined by X-ray, but no abnormalities were found.

During May the Mass Radiography Unit paid a visit to Fowey and 834 people from Fowey and Polruan districts were examined. It proved to be impossible to separate the figures but it can be assumed that 75% were from Fowey. Four cases of tubercular infection were noted for observation, eight proved to have inactive lesions, and one previously diagnosed case was noted. In addition 20 people were found to have other diseases.

FACTORIES ACT 1937 and 1948.

1. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health (including visits made by the Sanitary Inspector)

PREMISES	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices Occupiers prosecuted
I. Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	3	5	—
II. Factories not included in (I) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	10	16	—
TOTAL	13	21	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	—	—	Remedies by informal action
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	1	1	—	—	
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1	—	—	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	—	
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	
TOTAL	6	6	—	—	